

NEWS RELEASE

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MAYOR BALLARD RECOGNIZES 2012 SUSTAINABILITY AWARD WINNERS

INDIANAPOLIS – Mayor Greg Ballard today honored five local organizations and businesses for their efforts in advancing sustainability in the city. The winners were announced at the 2012 Sustainability Awards luncheon hosted by living green expert Sara Snow at the Indianapolis Downtown Marriott.

"I am encouraged by the outstanding work of our field of applicants. With such strong community partners, my vision for Indianapolis to become one of the most sustainable cities in the Midwest moves closer to fruition," said Mayor Ballard. "Each of our five winners was chosen for inspiring innovation, showcasing a positive community impact, demonstrating leadership and promoting education around the principles of sustainability."

The five categories for the awards are air, land, water, energy, and reduce, reuse, recycle. The project winners are as follows:

Air

- **Community Collaborations Program** submitted by IndyGo
The Community Collaborations Program encourages partnerships by providing in-kind sponsorships. In return, the partners promote IndyGo and route information specific to the events/facilities through ads, signage, brochures and the web. The main goal of the program when it launched was to grow awareness for mass transit, but IndyGo has surpassed that plan and is building credibility within the community by increasing ridership 10.2 percent.

Land

- **Pogue's Run Grocer** submitted by Indy Food Cooperative
Pogue's Run Grocer was the first community-owned grocery store on the Near Eastside, bringing much-needed fresh and healthy food options to urban Indianapolis on a daily basis. Through a network of local farmers and producers, a long list of supporters, and the support of the Greater Indy Neighborhoods for the Near Eastside Quality of Life Plan, their store recently celebrated its one-year anniversary.

Water

- **The National Apartments** submitted by Development Concepts, Inc. & Williams Creek Consulting, Inc
The National Apartments located in the heart of the Indianapolis Smart Growth Redevelopment District creates an urban village in the midst of the historic urban neighborhood and provides affordable urban living opportunities for families. The sustainable development will remove more than 53,000 gallons of storm water runoff from the City's combined sewer system during each storm event.

Energy

- **Major General Emmitt J. Bean Center** submitted by GSA, Shiel Sexton Company Inc., & Gilbane Building Company
The Major General Emmett J Bean Center was funded as part of the American Revitalization and Reinvestment Act to reduce pollution of air, water, and land due to power companies not having demand to produce their own. The high performance roof will help reduce the heating bill for the 1.6 billion square foot building by about \$500,000 per year.

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

- **Piazza Zero Waste** submitted by The Piazza Produce, Inc
The Piazza Produce, Inc. launched its recycling program in 2005 but just recently reached the zero waste status. Piazza's Zero Waste status has generated more than \$46,000 in income, which negated its expenditures for the year and actually produced a profit of about \$30,000.

The Indianapolis Sustainability Awards are presented annually by the City's Office of Sustainability, the McKinney Green Initiatives Fund and the Greater Indianapolis Chamber of Commerce. Application deadlines for the 2013 Indianapolis Sustainability Awards will be announced later in 2012. For more information about the Office of Sustainability please visit www.indy.gov/sustainindy.

EDITOR'S NOTE: HEADSHOTS OF MAYOR GREG BALLARD AND SARA SNOW AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST.

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